

PATENT APPLN. NO. 10/524,892
RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

**PATENT
NON-FINAL**

REMARKS

In the Action claims 1-17 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Onodera, US 5,407,581.

The claims have been amended to overcome the rejections. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended and claims 11, 14 and 16 have been cancelled. More specifically, the claims have been amended to limit the hydrophilic polymer of the modified substrate of the present invention to polyvinylpyrrolidone and copolymers and graft polymers thereof.

Onodera does not disclose polyvinylpyrrolidone. On the other hand, as described on page 16, lines 6-11, of the present specification, polyvinylpyrrolidone is a particularly preferred hydrophilic polymer in the present invention because of a materially high inhibiting effect of adsorption. The high inhibiting effect of adsorption may be seen by a comparison of the results of Example 2 and Example 5. These examples are essentially the same except that Example 2 uses polyvinylpyrrolidone as a hydrophilic polymer, while Example 5 uses polyethyleneimine. The number of adhered human blood platelets of Example 2 is much smaller than that of Example 5. Please refer to Tables 2-1, 2-2, 3-1 and 3-2.

Onodera does not support a case of anticipation of the claims

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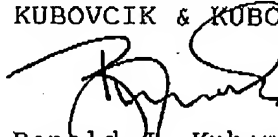
under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and, when considered in light of the prior art as a whole, is insufficient to suggest the high inhibiting effects of adsorption obtained by the use polyvinylpyrrolidone and copolymers and graft polymers thereof as the hydrophilic polymer of the modified substrate and, therefore, also fails to support obviousness of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections and an allowance of the claims of the application is in order and is respectfully requested.

The foregoing is believed to be a complete and proper response to the Office Action dated April 2, 2010.

In the event that this paper is not considered to be timely filed, applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for any such extension and any additional required fees may be charged to Deposit Account No. 111833.

Respectfully submitted,
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